

Introduction

This brochure announces the availability of the Environmental Assessment and public comment period for the *Richmond Highway-Telegraph Road Connector*. The Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division (EFLHD) of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is conducting the planning and environmental work for the proposed Connector and administering the project through the Department of Army (DoA) Defense Access Road Program. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and Fairfax County are assisting in the study and design development.

Project and Study Purpose

The purpose of the project is to provide a replacement connector road between Richmond Highway (U.S. Route 1) and Telegraph Road (VA Route 611) in the vicinity of Fort Belvoir. The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) restricted public access to Beulah Street and Woodlawn Road (within Fort Belvoir) following the events of September 11, 2001. These roads linked U.S. Route 1 and Telegraph Road.

The study identifies the alternatives considered, and impacts on the natural, cultural, and community resources in the study area. This information is summarized in a *Environmental Assessment* report.

U.S. Route 1 Intersection Concept



Environmental Assessment

The *Environmental Assessment* is now available for public review. Copies of the report are available at the project website @ http://www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/active_projects_rhtrc.htm and the following locations:

- Sherwood Regional Library
2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306
- Federal Highway Administration, Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division
21400 Ridgeway Circle, Sterling, VA 20166
- Supervisor Gerald Hyland's Office
2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306
- Supervisor Dana Kauffman's Office
6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310
- Kingstowne Library
6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria, VA 22315

Public Involvement

Two public meetings have been held for the project, with a third meeting planned for September 7, 2006 at Mount Vernon High School. See Page 4 of the newsletter for more details. These meetings provide an opportunity for the project team to receive input from the public for the alternatives being considered, as well as document community preferences and concerns. Summaries of the February 2005 and October 2005 public meeting are available at the project website.

FHWA will be accepting comments at the September 7th meeting, and until September 18, 2006. Email and written comments can be sent to Jack Van Dop, at the return address provided.

Citizens Task Force

A Citizens Task Force for the project was organized by Supervisors Hyland and Kauffman after the first public meeting in February 2005. The Task Force has met with the project team several times since then. They have been briefed and provided input on project activities, such as the intersection concept for U.S. Route 1 at Woodlawn Plantation.

Richmond Highway/Old Mill Road/Mount Vernon Memorial Highway Intersection

The project proposes to redesign the intersection of Richmond Highway, Old Mill Road and Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Approximately 1,000 feet of Mount Vernon Memorial Highway would be realigned northward towards the commercial properties. Old Mill Road would be widened to the south. The current entrance to Woodlawn Plantation would also be relocated. Pedestrian/bicycle paths and crosswalks would also be constructed to improve mobility.

Historic Resources

FHWA has led the Section 106 Consultation process for this project, in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. The Act requires federal agencies to "take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties." FHWA determined that the proposed undertaking could have an adverse affect upon properties that are listed or are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A key historic site within the study area is Woodlawn Plantation, a National Historic Landmark. The surrounding NRHP-eligible Woodlawn Historic District is made up of multiple contributing elements including Woodlawn Plantation, Woodlawn Stables, George Washington's Grist Mill, and the Woodlawn Friends Meeting.

Woodlawn Plantation



Hold the Date !

September 7, 2006 Public Hearing

6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Where: Mount Vernon High School Cafeteria
8515 Old Mount Vernon Road,
Alexandria, VA 22309

Key Issues to be Discussed:

- Preferred Alternative for the Connector Road
- Environmental Assessment (EA) Report
- Impacts and Mitigation
- Cultural Resources and the Section 106 Process
- Citizens Task Force
- Comments on the EA are due to the FHWA by September 18, 2006

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

Over the course of the study, the project team has evaluated the impacts of the proposed connector road. The National Environmental Policy Act directs this study. The project team developed the Environmental Assessment (EA) and seeks public and agency comment.

Public & Agency Involvement



Next Steps

- Evaluate public and agency comments on the EA
- Render decision on alternative

Comments or Questions?

Please email Jack Van Dop, at the Federal Highway Administration: jack.j.vandop@fhwa.dot.gov

Federal Highway Administration
Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division
Attention: Jack Van Dop
21400 Ridgeway Circle
Sterling, VA 20166

Richmond Highway (U.S. Route 1)/Telegraph Road
Connector
Environmental Assessment

Newsletter

August 2006

September 7, 2006
Public Hearing Announcement
6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Where: Mount Vernon High School Cafeteria
8515 Old Mount Vernon Road,
Alexandria, VA 22309

Format: "Open House" with a
Presentation at 7:00 P.M.

